

Post-30-

Information Strategy Division, Office, Chief of Public Affairs, Department of the Army

J-Award Winners

Army Flier (2)
 Eagle (2)
 Guidon (2)
 Inside the Turret (2)
 Fort Dix Post
 Blizzard
 Paraglide
 Korus
 Monitor
 Herald-Post
 Guardian
 Pointer View
 Citizen
 Herald Union
 Courier
 Talon
 Training Times
 On Guard
 Soundoff!
 District Times
 Fort Carson Mountaineer
 Prairie Soldier
 Casemate
 Lamp
 Scout
 Alaska Post
 Torii
 Cannoneer
 Target

Good Photograph Tells The Story

Most editors will agree that the success of their newspaper depends a good deal on the quality of the photographs that adorn the pages.

The Army offers excellent opportunities for the man or woman who wants to be a good photographer. But the individual must take advantage of the opportunities and work hard to learn the craft of capturing and producing great pictures.

A person not only must master the technical aspects of photography to take good news and feature photos, but also must use imagination and creativity.

An effective photographer should avoid the static and obviously posed pictures. The more action, the better. A simple rule is to wait for the action to develop, and with right light and preset focus, all that is needed is to press the shutter release.

We all—those who have worked in public affairs shops—know that time is a premium, especially when the commander is among the subjects being photographed in an awards ceremony. And, invariably, the grip and grin shots result. There's no fighting that situation.

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ProTalk

No Two Or Four Are Alike

By Lt. Col. William H. Harkey, PAO,
USMA, West Point.....page 9

Their eyes hauntingly show the history they've witnessed.—Spc. Casondra Brewster, Fort Belvoir
From "A Holiday Gift: Veteran Soldiers Share Experiences"

Impressions

By Sgt. Maj. Gary G. Beylickjian (USA-Ret)

The Army's Fluff and Puff Newspapers

Some Army newspapers simply don't get it. There's more—much more—to newspapering in the Army than simply filling pages with platitudes and seemingly endless stories on changes of command, awards and promotions, visiting VIPs and field exercises. These are news stories to be sure, and should be covered, but so too should other soldier-related stories.

On some—if not most Army posts—soldiers fall victim to drug abuse, sexual abuse, alcohol abuse, discrimination, harassment, credit card scams, used car schemes and other forms of rip-offs. Many soldiers are themselves participants in acts that are potentially illegal. MP stats published in Army newspapers reveal a host of crimes that have taken place on post.

Yet, some Army newspapers go about their weekly chore of publishing the same kinds of fluffy articles and features, ignoring discussion of issues that may enlighten and influence soldiers on ways to avoid and solve potential personal and career-damaging problems. Pages are often loaded with stories and photos that read and look as though they are the same, issue after issue—only the names seem to change.

Back some 30 years, Army newspapers were given the chance to delve into almost every problem area that could or would affect the soldier and his or her performance. Army newspapers discussed alcoholism, drug abuse, abortion, AWOL, desertion, suicide, discrimination, smoking, prostitution, breast and testicular cancer, hygiene, dishonorable discharges, barracks thefts, gangs, retention, murder and scores of other topics—all with the potential of negative effects on a soldier's attitude and performance. Soldiers turned to Army newspapers for education and enlightenment because they developed a trust that post and unit newspapers would provide guidance and information. Army newspapers, they said, were “up front.”

Commanders from those years noted signs of improved discipline and a greater understanding and respect for authority in addition to higher esprit. Army papers spoke the language young soldiers understood, by employing modern graphic designs and visual expressions to enhance the communication process with young soldiers.

If Army newspapers are to help commanders communicate with young soldiers of today, they must give more space and emphasis to matters that young soldiers are concerned about and to issues that are relevant to their lives as soldiers and individuals. Soldiers face deployments, extended separations from families and pressures of assignments that weigh heavily on them.

Unfortunately, these points are lost among a handful of Army newspapers who continue to produce little in ways information that can improve soldiers' and military families' understanding of real-world, everyday issues. The content of these newspapers can best be described as staid, stodgy and strident, dull, dreary and drab.

In other words, they're nothing more than fluff and puff machines!



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Good Photo Tells A Story

When photographing an award or promotion story, take the photo with the awardee and the commander. Show them shaking hands and receiving certificates. Good photo album stuff.

But, once those pictures are out of the way, consider the other options worthy of publication: photographing the person in action at his or her job. Find out what the person did to earn recognition. Look for different angles for promotion photos. If the person is enlisted, perhaps a shot of the person sewing on chevrons, polishing his brass. And, be sure the subject is not staring into the camera lens.

If a group of soldiers is being recognized, consider the group shot—after the individual poses with the commander. The only limitation a photographer may encounter in the quest to take pictures is his or her lack of imagination.



Grip 'n Grip shots in Army newspapers are not new by any means. They've been around since the earliest days of post and unit newspapers. All photos contain the same elements: the commander, if included, usually stands at left, the recipient at the right, shaking of the hands and displaying a certificate or plaque, which in almost every case is unreadable in print. Such photos are great for archiving, but some imagination is needed if they are to be considered for publication.



The group shot is one solution to the ever present grip n' grin. Unfortunately, the cutline often may be larger than the photo. A creative technique (shown right) not only looks good as a glossy or digital reproduction, but also looks great in print.

(more next page)

Feature Photos

When shooting features, aim for long, medium (between 5 and 10 feet) and close shots. The long shot creates the scene and draws readers' attention to the other photos. The medium shot tells the story. And the close-up focuses attention on a specific point.



These two-page spreads contain an establishing or wide shot, close-ups and medium shots, which combine to produce a highly attractive and effective layout. Both appeared in the Fort Eustis WHEEL.

Often a photographer will come across a scene, visualize a perfect angle, quickly focus and seal the event on film or digital memory cards. The photos in themselves may not portray a newsworthy event, yet may be worthy enough to capture the editor's attention and to appear in print.

The photographs below are a combination of planned and unplanned photos; several were taken during news and feature shoots.



NEWS--The burial ceremony of former President Herbert Hoover, at West Branch, Iowa, 1964. The officer leading the procession is Lt. Gen. Charles G. Dodge, commanding general of 5th US Army, and former chief of public affairs during the early 1960s.

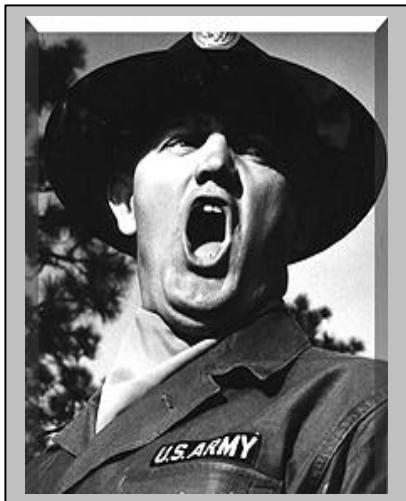


FEATURE—At the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) in Washington, DC. during 1997.

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Left-- UNPLANNED—Titled “Smile” photo was taken in Korea in 1962 and won top honors in the 1963 National Press Photographers Awards, Military Division. Center--UNPLANNED—“Ride on the Lake”—The scene is Lake Michigan, 1963. Right—FEATURE—“Miss Kim”— A story of a day in the life of a young Korean girl, 1961.

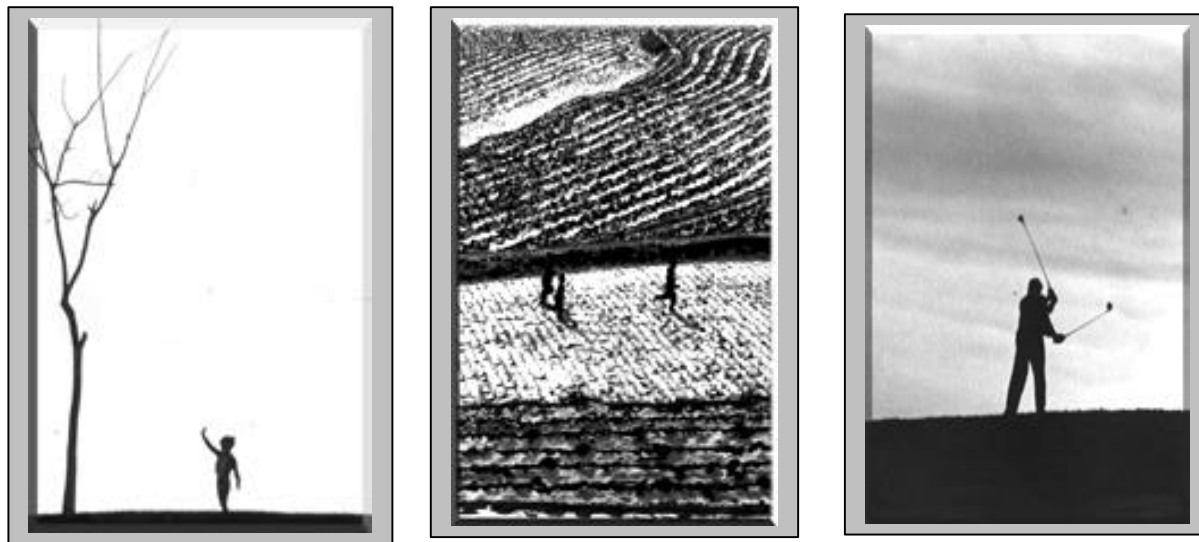


Left—NEWS—Army announces the new Drill Sergeant Program—1964. Center-- UNPLANNED—A child looks up as he is playing with his toys, and his father takes his photo. The photo won an NPPA award in 1965. Right—FEATURE—A sergeant oversees a special training exercise at Fort Riley, Kansas.



Left—UNPLANNED—Moonlight fly-by. Right—FEATURE—Mountain training exercise.

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Left—UNPLANNED—Titled “The Lonesome Oak”, a series of six photos, won top honors in the 1965 National Press Photographer’s Award, Military Division. Center—UNPLANNED—“Race in the Paddies,” Korea 1953. Right—UNPLANNED—“Two In One.” Two golfers appearing as one. (Photos from the funeral to the golfers taken by Sgt. Maj. G.G. Beylickjian)

The point here is that almost any Army journalist (or anyone for that matter) can take an artistic photograph. It takes some creativity, camera know-how, patience and persistence. A person with the ability to put clear, concise and effective words on paper, can just as easily capture a visual event clearly, concisely and effectively. And photos taken on the “run” may carry enough impact to be used as one when standing still.

Photographic standards

Whether a news or feature story, the standards governing articles are the same for pictorials. A photo should inform, entertain, arouse interest. And, it should contain the same elements that comprise a news story: immediacy, prominence, proximity, drama, oddity, conflict, sex, emotion and progress.

A news photo that captures an historical event obviously warrants publication. Feature photos—which often require more photos—are planned and published when needed. The human interest, the unplanned photo—is printable when it stirs readers’ emotions or creates in readers an indefinable quality known as “warmth,” an appeal to the “heart.” Some pictures have it, others do not. An editor must apply good judgement when selecting these pictures.

Care and Handling of Photographs In Print

Some Army newspapers are blessed with a news-minded photographer who always seems to get the right picture. But if not displayed attractively and properly, the photo is for naught. Results are important to readers.

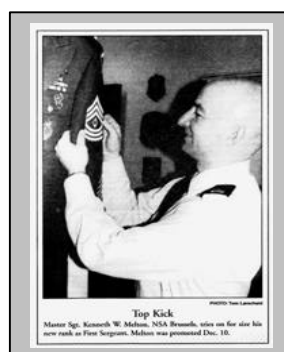
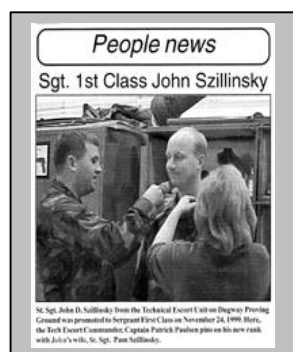
Editors should consider several points before placing a photo on the page. Two important considerations—*content notwithstanding*—are size and cropping.

How big should a picture be? A technique editors from years past often applied is: “make it one-column wider than originally thought.” Unfortunately, very few photographs can be improved by increasing their size.

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Before deciding to increase a photo to two or three columns, an editor must review a picture's content to ensure its newsworthiness. On the other hand a fuzzy photo is often improved by reducing its size.

There are many pros and cons regarding half-column (thumbnail) placement. On the "against side" is the fact that they often cause more trouble than they're worth. It's been said that a picture not worth running at least one column wide is really not worth the trouble of running at all. Yet, a thumbnail in a standing head or with a regular column adds authenticity and breaks up an otherwise gray column of type. It's a decision an editor must make.

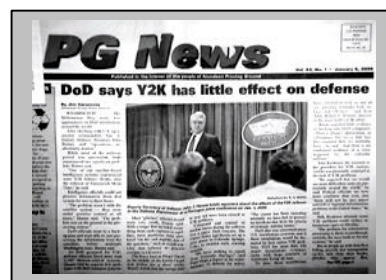
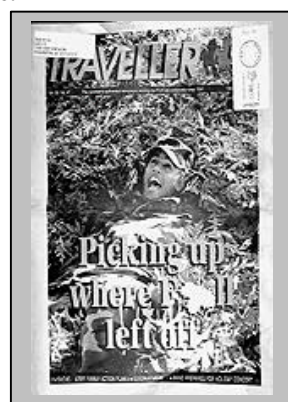


Left—A thumbnail of John Rickey, Fort Knox PAO, used in his occasional column in *INSIDE THE TURRET*. **Center**—A typical promotion pose. **Right**—An imaginative approach to a promotion. Photo was taken by Tom Larsheid, editor *BEMELUX METEOR*.

Photos should not be enlarged merely to fill a larger space. The main subject in a photo should be blown up after the unnecessary debris in a photo is cleared away.

This is where cropping becomes important. Cut all the waste and unimportant space out of the picture. Unless you do this, the news impact on readers is lost and the process becomes a poor way of filling space.

A basic tenet of news photography: only one point of interest in a picture. With wise cropping, editors can enforce the rule.



Left—The page-one photo is fuzzy. A larger size would have emphasized its low clarity. **Center**—A soldier lies on a pile of leaves, a lead-in-picture for the two-page spread on clean-up work at Fort Lee. Should a photo that says little or nothing occupy a spot on page one? **Right**—The photo is tied into the story, but is in need of cropping. The area right of the speaker is waste and should be cut. Many photos can be trimmed and still maintain their communication value.



Horizontal and vertical illustrations are strong visual magnets as shown in the examples at top and left.

Editors should constantly apply news standards to photographs to ensure their size and location on the page are merited.

Unless a stand alone photo (one not tied to the story on the same page, samples at bottom left and right) has an exceptional human interest appeal, its size and location on a page should be carefully and judiciously considered.

Using illustrations merely to fill in a news hole should be controlled or avoided if possible.



ProTalk

Essays on Army journalism by Army journalists

No Two (Or Four) Are Alike

By Lt. Col. William H. Harkey

Public Affairs Officer, US Military Academy, West Point

I have had the privilege of holding public affairs officer jobs in four different units at various times since 1985. In one I wore dual hats as the public affairs officer for a troop unit and for the military community at the same time, so I suppose you could say I've had five public affairs officer jobs.

In four of those five PAO jobs I had responsibility for a command information newspaper. Two were "troop" papers and two were more "community" papers. As might be expected, each paper had its own unique personality, its own quirks, and its own challenges, all dependent on a number of factors. What sort of unit or community was it in? Where was it? How dispersed was the coverage area? Who was the audience? How was it staffed? What was the unit mission? What upheavals were ongoing in the Army or in theater?

Sgt. Maj. Beylickjian asked me to write a "compare and contrast" piece for Post-30-, based on my experiences, then give my thoughts about where Army papers were, where they are and where they are going. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author and in all probability do not reflect the views of the Army or DoD. I'm writing it and they aren't.

My first paper was THE INDIANHEAD in the 2d Infantry Division, Korea. We were a combat unit, forward deployed, with a real-world go-to-war mission along a stretch of the most heavily fortified and defended border in the world. The coverage area was relatively small, and most units and field locations were easily covered with day trips from the headquarters at Camp Casey.

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"...each paper had its own unique personality, its own quirks and its own challenges...."

Our primary audience was the soldier. They were mostly young, on an unaccompanied 12-month tour, and spent lots of time in the field. Except for STARS & STRIPES, we were the only newspaper around. We had a section for the Korean (Korean Augmentee to the U.S. Army) soldiers, too, so I had a KATUSA staff in addition to my American staff. My American staff were all NCOs and enlisted soldiers, themselves on unaccompanied short tours.

“Good coverage meant lots of windshield time for my journalists.”

My next paper was THE AIR DEFENDER with 32d AADCOM in Darmstadt, Germany. We provided air defense for virtually the entire US Army, Europe area of responsibility and our units were spread throughout the theater. Good coverage meant lots of windshield time for my journalists. Soldiers were the primary audience, but we also had a good many civilian employees, contractors and family members, and most everyone who was married was on an accompanied tour of at least two years. Our units located in other communities had access to their local community papers, and we all had STARS & STRIPES.

The staff was again all military, but this time there was minimal NCO involvement, and I quickly came to appreciate how smart, dedicated, dependable and hard-working our enlisted journalists are. Many times we had to put a private on the road to cover a unit a four-hour drive away. Not only would they get the story we sent them for, but they usually sniffed another one out and got it on the same trip. I had to send one to the Gulf War with the air defense task force we deployed, and I later sent a PFC with a brigade headquarters deploying as part of the follow-on force. Both returned with stories and photos worthy of journalists far more senior and experienced. My enlisted kids wrote, edited, composed, laid out and produced. I was, and am, very proud of them.

My other hat in Darmstadt was as the military community PAO, where I oversaw the operations of ABOUT TOWN. As a community paper, it catered to the needs of a variety of different units in the Darmstadt community and its subcommunity of Babenhausen, and it also served the sizeable civilian population that supported the military operations there. It was staffed by a great crew of civilians, occasionally augmented with journalists from THE AIR DEFENDER as the situation required.

“Striking a balance between being a community paper and being a college paper is a challenge...”

My current paper is West Point’s POINTER VIEW. Of course, the main unit here on the banks of the Hudson River is the U.S. Military Academy, whose mission is to produce leaders of character for the greatest Army in the world. The obvious difference between the audience for this paper and that for the other three papers is our 4,100 cadets, averaging in age from 18 to 22. We have a sizeable civilian family member and employee population, as well as the normal installation support units. But we also get visiting parents and more VIPs than any unit should have to entertain. Finally, we are a national historic site and we get more than 3,000,000 visitors and tourists each year, and we try to use the paper to help tell our unique story. Striking a balance between being a community paper and being a college paper is a challenge, but my staff does a super job.

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The staff is primarily civilian. I have one enlisted journalist slot. Just a few years ago, it was all military with a civilian editor. Times have changed. We also get great help from cadets and staff members who string for us and participate in and report on the more than 100 clubs and 25 intercollegiate and intramural sports we have here. There is no way we could cover it all without their support.

“Four newspapers in roughly 15 years, each in an entirely different environment, each staffed a little differently, each catering to a slightly different mix of readers”

Four newspapers in roughly 15 years, each in an entirely different environment, each staffed a little differently, each catering to a slightly different mix of readers. The one constant in all of them was my management style, which is basically “hands off.” I see my job as providing overhead cover, defending my journalists when they print something controversial or going to bat when they want to print a full-page photo of the Superintendent sporting a do rag and biker garb. I stay out of the daily business, don’t go to the printer when the paper goes to bed, and write only rarely. Some may disagree with my approach, but that’s how I do it, and I haven’t had any complaints yet. Check with Mike Cast at the Environmental Center or Sgt. Maj. McSpadden at Ft. Knox, or Staff Sgt. Thompson at 7th Signal Brigade. They’ve all worked for me at one time or another.

Of the four papers, I suspect THE INDIANHEAD’s situation has changed the least. The threat in Korea is still as real as it was when I arrived there in May of 1985 and the Division’s mission has not been altered appreciably.

“Granted, the drawdown was put on temporary hold while we took time to spank Saddam Hussein, but the die was cast.”

The same cannot be said for THE AIR DEFENDER or the ABOUT TOWN. I arrived in Darmstadt in January, 1990, not two months after the Berlin Wall came down and the threat from the Soviet Union was suddenly and irreversibly dissipating. It was the beginning of the great drawdown and the Army was shrinking from an active strength of about 800,000 to today’s roughly 450,000. Granted, the drawdown was put on temporary hold while we took time to spank Saddam Hussein, but the die was cast. The AIR DEFENDER went from writing about air defense soldiers protecting the skies to covering unit inactivations and in some cases moves of entire units back to the States. Kaserns and air defense sites were being returned to the German government. Indeed, 32d AADCOM isn’t even there anymore, and THE AIR DEFENDER is no more.

The Darmstadt Community also witnessed major unit inactivations and relocations and returned at least one major kasern to the Germans. The military community system changed to one of area support groups and base support battalions, not unlike the system I knew on my first assignment to Germany (Darmstadt, in fact) in the early 1970s. There was a move afoot to consolidate base support battalion newspapers at the area support group level, and my ABOUT TOWN was at risk. Every time I saw the area support group commander, my greeting and departure messages were the same:

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“Keep your hands off my newspaper!” They eventually closed it in favor of a consolidated paper at the area support group level. Damn shame.

Today, a new challenge is facing Public Affairs Offices and their newspapers throughout the Army and DOD. Depending on what day of the week it is, this challenge goes by the name of A-76 Studies, FAIR, or Commercial Activities Studies. The bottom line of this challenge is a seemingly simple question: what activities are being performed by the (primarily TDA) Army that could be contracted out, thus saving government money? I don’t know or understand enough about the programs to go into detail, but suffice it to say many people, primarily civilian employees, are gravely worried about their jobs. And the chat on PALink attests to the confusion and accompanying anxiety that exists in the public affairs world. As a result of all this, the editor of the Pointer View has taken it upon herself to become the resident expert on the process and has instituted regular coverage and comment on it.

“I see no return to the way it used to be. As the Army drew down, papers went away....”

So we have gone from the heydays of seemingly limitless resources and lots of papers, many Army authorized (paid for with appropriated funds), with military journalists and editors, to the days of severely constrained resources. I see no return to the way it used to be. As the Army drew down, papers went away, Army authorized papers became civilian enterprise to save money and military journalist and editor positions were converted to civilian. And now, even the civilian slots are in danger of being contracted out. I’ve been around long enough to know better than to comment publicly on the wisdom of that. Aw, what the hell ... it’s a dumb idea.

“One of the best ways to keep the soldier informed is with a well-written, well-edited, command-supported Command Information newspaper.”

But I believe the Army newspaper, the kind you hold in your hand and take to the latrine and that leaves ink on your fingers, isn’t going away anytime soon. They will go on-line, become digitized, maybe even become totally contracted, but they will survive. As long as we have soldiers, we will have papers in one form or another. As the saying goes, an informed soldier is a better soldier. One of the best ways to keep the soldier informed is with a regular, well-written, well-edited, command-supported Command Information newspaper.

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SIDEBAR

By Lt. Col. William H. Harkey

Actually, I lied. My first newspaper wasn't THE INDIANHEAD. It was THE DEFENDER, later given the unfortunate moniker THE MOTIVATOR. It was a weekly, 10-page mimeograph product of the Headquarters, U.S. Army Training Center, Field Artillery, at Fort Sill. It wasn't the post paper, The CANNONEER. It was the training center's own publication. And it was the first place I heard the name "Sergeant Major Beylickjian" whispered in hushed and reverent tones and the first place I found Post-30-.

I went to work on it as a PFC fresh out of field artillery AIT while I awaited acceptance to OCS. I was a cannon cocker with a journalism degree (a recruiting story I won't bore you with here). The staff consisted of a Sergeant First Class editor, two PFC journalists and a GS-3 secretary. I brought my own electric typewriter from home because I didn't like using a manual one. We thought we were in high cotton when we got an IBM Selectric typewriter for the secretary so she could type the *paper* stencils we used on the mimeograph machine. We were on a real roll when we got hold of an A.B. Dick 580 Stencil Maker. It burned the copy onto rubber stencils through the amazing technology of an electric eye, and it gave us better quality and more copies per stencil.

After I had been there about four months, the editor and the other PFC departed and I found myself as the editor, journalist, composer, printer, collator, stapler and distributor. If the paper wasn't on the Commander's desk Friday morning, I was on his carpet explaining why. For a PFC and later SP4, I got more than my share of 0-6 face time.

Many late Thursday nights were spent in the S-3 copy room getting the paper ready to be assembled the next morning. Years later, when the Army finally forced me to retire my old TWs ("tropic worsted"...a wash 'n wear polyester version of the venerable khakis), they still showed evidence of my enlisted days: the faint outline of the SP4 patch on the sleeve and faint ink stains on the trousers from my days as an editor.

But my supervisor never got into my business unless I asked him to. He had faith in me to get the product out on time and I rarely failed him. Perhaps that's why I run my papers now the way I do ... I let the staff do their jobs. They haven't failed me, either. -30-



Reliable Stringer System Valuable to Newspaper

One of the most valuable aids to a newspaper is a well-established, reliable stringer system. In many cases, newspaper staffs are too small (and getting smaller) to establish a regular beat system covering the entire post.

A stringer or contact in each company, battalion or squadron is worth his or her weight in gold. He or she can provide tips on possible news, feature or human interest stories in an organization.

An effective stringer system is excellent public relations for the post or unit newspaper and can save a lot of time and legwork.

Tell It Clearly, Accurately

The exercise involved some 20,000 soldiers. What does that sentence mean?

Does it mean that *almost* 20,000 soldiers were involved or does it mean that *more than* 20,000 men and women were involved?

When you make a statement in a news story, you shouldn't leave the writer wondering; say what you mean.

Don't make the mistake of using *some* when you mean *almost* or *more than*. And if, as in this example, it was 20,000, say it was.

Time Ripe To Publish Tax Information

Army editors can ease readers' anxieties concerning income taxes.

Income tax information is welcomed by those who have not mastered tax forms, and that could be a large number of readers in uniform.

Good source material can be obtained from a local Internal Revenue Service office or from the Superintendent of Documents in Washington, DC.

A series of weekly or monthly articles written and bylined by a member of the post's legal staff—designed to answer the questions of the individual service member—is an important and popular feature during this time of year. Some papers have begun running articles.

Say It, State It, But Do It Properly

A common word used in Army newspapers has different shades of meaning and should be treated with caution.

It is closely connected to often-used attribution, the necessary ingredient of many news stories.

For example, when General Smith makes a statement is it: "The general *said*—*stated*--*asserted*—or *declared*?"

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Here's a good rule of thumb to follow: *say* and *said* mean simply to express oneself; *stated* is not considered a replacement for *said*. It is used when comments are made during formal speech or in writing. *Asserted* is used when someone expresses him- or herself strongly and positively. And *declared* is used when comments are expressed explicitly, particularly in a public or formal way.

Biblical Phrases Still Used Today

Many common phrases and expressions in today's modern language have lived through the centuries. For example, the following sayings come from the Old Testament:

If somebody says he wants to get to the "root of the matter," he is quoting from the Book of Job, and if somebody uses the phrase living off "the fat of the land," the phrasing comes from Genesis. If a prominent person is said to have "feet of clay," the description comes from Book of Daniel. And there many more.

We're all familiar with this one: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land and unto all the inhabitants thereof." Not words of Washington, Jefferson, Franklin or other American patriot. These words go back almost 4,000 years to the Book of Leviticus, Chapter XXV, Verse 10.

I Goofed

If you read the previous Post-30-, you probably caught my mistake in the Editor's Corner. I suggested that you spell consensus as concensus. Most of us know that the fourth letter should be an "s" not a "c."

Words/Phrases Used and Misused

The following have appeared in Army Newspapers

CHECK TO SEE—A common phrase spoken in the Army, but wordy in writing: "...he vowed he would check to see if the order was valid." One rewrite: "...he would check the validity of the." Check is sometimes used with the prepositions out and into, which are often unnecessary. The preposition on appears more acceptable.

AGGRAVATE—This word appeared in several post newspapers and each time it was incorrectly used. Here's one example: "He appeared aggravated by what was said." Aggravate should not be used when referring to annoyance and should not be applied to humans but to conditions or circumstances. Use annoy in place of aggravate.

VERDICT—"...they waited as the judge prepared to hand down his verdict...." Judges hand down rulings, judgments and the like, but not verdicts. That's a jury's job.

BI-MONTHLY and SEMIMONTHLY—Bi-monthly means every two months and, semimonthly means twice a month.

CONTINUAL and CONTINUOUS—Continual means in rapid succession and continuous means uninterrupted in time or sequence.

FARTHER and FURTHER—Farther means removed in distance and further means removed in time.

PRECEDE and PROCEED—Precede means to go before and proceed means to go on or continue.

Miscellanea



Fort Sill's CANNONEER put a little extra in the nameplate of its end of year, a creative touch first among Army newspapers. Jean Schucker is the editor.



Back to basics: This gem appeared in the Fort Rucker ARMY FLIER and the cutline says it all. *"In a special sewer system contingency test for the year 2000, Fort Rucker passed a big milestone today. Shown here are some of the Fort Rucker personnel obviously pleased with the results."* (Post-30- Ed:The cutline fails to explain what the results were! For those unfamiliar with deep rural surroundings, the structure in the photo is a detached, semi-remote, waste-disposal facility.)



Fort Riley's POST has undergone a nameplate change for 2000. The old (top) and the new. The new design, which carries an orange tint on top and fades to white at the bottom, allows for ears on each side of the logo—weather icons on the left and a referral box at right. James B. Pritchett is the editor.

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An insert to Fort Polk's GUARDIAN contained 40 pages of organizations—local, national and international—supported by 1999 Combined Federal Campaign donations. It's a unique listing of the scores of organizations in need of financial gifts. Quite a roundup of names. GUARDIAN's editor is Trish Warrick.



USARJ's TORII continues to offer a unique look at Japanese customs, food and language through columns and features. Yuki Yanagi, a staff writer, discusses the preparation of seasonal Japanese soup made up of vegetables and seafood in the December 10 TORII. And the always popular continuing column "Hana's Helpful Hints" covers the importance of gift-giving in Japan at the end of the year. "Hana" is Hanako Akiyoshi. Both writers are doing a super job.



Fort Campbell's COURIER welcomed the holidays with a unique display of seasonal themes on the cover of each December 22 sections. The layouts not only grabbed attention but also held it. A pat on the back to the COURIER. Sgt. 1st Class Richard Arndt is editor. Below—The COURIER's sports page continues to rank among the best of Army newspapers—great writing and outstanding visuals. Sports editor is Spc. Mindy Anderson.



(more)



Left--During the last weeks of 1999 when the HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY went on leave, the paper's printer filled in with the MILITARY SUN PRESS. It carries everything you'd find in HAW; only the look and flag are different.



One of the best visuals commemorating Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. appeared in the Dec-Jan SALVO (left) a product of Watervliet Arsenal in New York. John Swantek is editor. As for the welcoming of the new millennium, the TRAVELLER published by Fort Lee published an impressive color photo of a sunrise. The January 6 cover was titled "Dawn Of A New Millennium: and was taken by Sandy Ellis the post's PAO. Below, Fort Leonard Wood's GUIDON and its two-page spread on basic training (the only broad sheet to regularly run double-truck features) provides proof of the power of effective photos and display to support well written text. The feature "A Day On The Trail" was written by J-Award-winner Anne Marriott Stroud with photos by Pfc. Anthony Satter and published back in September.





Left—Fort Sill's CANNONEER is on schedule with its advice and tips on filing 1999 taxes, thanks to writer/editor Jean Schucker and the IRS. Keeping the troops informed—it's the name of the game. Center—Fort Campbell's COURIER has produced another top-notch issue titled "Year In Review," published January 6. The special recaps—with words and pictures-- main events during each month of 1999. Stories and photos are outstanding. Right—Sine Pari from Fort Bragg consistently carries well-written articles and great photos, ranking it among the best in its class. A pat on the back to Spc. Jon Creese its editor.

PASSAGES FROM ARMY NEWSPAPERS

If you didn't know the story, you'd wonder why anyone would propose placing a national monument here.

No great battle was fought here, nor did any Army encamp here on its way into battle. No important treaty was signed here, no noteworthy meetings were held here, no historic decisions were made here.

It's just a street, like hundreds of other streets you've seen in dozens of other towns, a street that runs a mere block and one-half long before ending at the bottom of a steep hill. On your way to the dead end, you go past a park, a small grocery store and about two dozen modest homes built for people of modest means.

Yes, it's just a street, but it's a street with a story, an old story that renews itself with each passing day, a poignant story of loss and sacrifice and hope and remembrance, a simple story that resonates with echoes of what it means to be a warrior, a member of a minority group, an American.

Paul Levesque from Monument To Preserve The Story Of Hero Street, Target, published December.

Many of the holidays Americans celebrate are based on beliefs and principles brought to our nation by immigrants from other lands. As a cultural melting pot, Americans sometimes have a tendency to take on the heritage of their homelands....

It is in that spirit of cultural pride that Kwanzaa originates.

Staci Sands from Kwanzaa Celebrates Cultural Value, Army Flier, December 16.

Months of Work. Hundreds of tests. Attention to detail. The result?

Nothing! Just as they planned.

Karen Jolley Drewen from Y2K Offers No Surprises, APG News, published January 20.

Parental responsibility. That's basically what it all boils down to. But isn't that what everything boils down to—especially where television programming is concerned?

Dawn M. Viola from Taking Drugs Or Watching WWF—You Decide, Benelux Meteor, published December 14.

Leadership is always placing your soldiers' needs above your own. If we ensure the needs of our soldiers are met, the mission always will be accomplished."

Staff Sgt. Greg Binford from Leading Soldiers Into The Next Millennium, APG NEWS, published January 13.

(more)

Now I don't know about the rest of you, and maybe someone can help out here, but when we go 'home' for the holidays, it's not just a matter of pulling into Grandma's and kicking back for a couple days. It's go visit here, make sure you see so-and-so, don't forget Aunt Maude, run here, run there, run everywhere. I come back more exhausted than before I left. So much for a restful holiday.

Candice Walters from New Year Brings Beginning Of Days Of Chaos, Eagle, published November 18

Sometimes success can be measured more by what stays constant and true than by what evolves—under the 'if it ain't broke...' rule.

Tonya L. Riley from Stricklin Envisions 2100, Cannoneer, published December 16.

Be all that you can be was a brilliant ad campaign. However, it has slowly over time, lost its impact with the last generation of stray cats.

Who will the Army target in 2000? The minorities, definitely. The under-educated and undecided, probably.
Dawn M. Viola from Army's Resolution—This Year I Promise To Do A Better Job At Recruiting, Benelux Meteor, published December 23

I can't run—I get shin pains.

I'm too busy.

The gym is too crowded.

My makeup runs when I sweat.

I'll miss Ally McBeal.

There are many reasons not to exercise. Now here is one reason to exercise: you might just live longer.

Kristen Sutek from Couch Potatoes—Start Your Engine, Army Flier, published January 13.

Journalism schools teach that about the only thing worse than getting the facts wrong is to go ahead and publish them....

How would you, gentle reader, like it if the BELVOIR EAGLE were to get the facts right only when it chose to and play around with them whenever, in someone's OPINION, it doesn't matter?

Don Carr from When Is A New Year Not A New Millennium, EAGLE, published January 6.



Excellence in Written And Visual Presentation

BEAR FACTS (Missouri NG) for the four-page special "Missouri National Guard In The 20th Century." Spc. Gail Braymen, editor.

SOUNDOFF! (Fort Meade) for "Pump It Up—Make Wellness A Priority For The New Year," by Caress Bolden, published January 13.

EAGLE (Fort Belvoir) for "When Is A New Year Not A New Millennium?" by Don Carr, published January 6.

CANNONEER (Fort Sill) for its four-page tax supplement, published January 13. Jean Schucker, editor.

COURIER (Fort Campbell) for its exceptional, multi-part special "Year In Review," published January 6. Sgt. 1st Class Richard Arndt, editor.

BENELUX METEOR (Belgium) for commentary "Army's Resolution—This Year I Promise To Do A Better Job At Recruiting," by Dawn Viola, published December 23.

(more)

DUTY FIRST (Germany) for an excellent November issue. Sgt. Annette B. Andrews, editor.
BLUE DEVIL II (Fort Snelling) for an outstanding Fall issue. Mr. Bill Geddes, editor.
CITIZEN (Germany) for “Smoking’s A Drag,” by Carey Bryant, published December 7.
APG NEWS (Aberdeen Proving Ground) for the opinion “Leading Soldiers Into The Next Millennium,” by Staff Sgt. Greg Binford, published January 13.
EAGLE (Fort Belvoir) for “Unhealthy Lifestyle Or Chauvinistic Attitude,” by Spc. Casondra Brewster. Also for “Remembering An Angel Who Was Once Among Us,” by Master Sgt. Lisa Hunter, both published January 13.
OUTLOOK (Italy) for its December 16 page-one photo “Bird’s Eye View Of Tunisia,” by Sgt. Scott Kelly.

A Look Back

A number of people have asked me to cite stories published in Army papers from the past. Apparently, there is an interest in what topics were covered back then. Here’s a list of papers (some now long gone) and various subjects published 25 years ago.

GUIDON (Fort Leonard Wood)—Are You A Lifer?
FRANKFURT CHRONICLE (Germany)—Juvenile Delinquency—A Knife At Our Throat.
ARROW (Germany) —EM Clubs—Are They Playing Your Tune?
MADIGAN MOUNTAINEER (Tacoma, WA)—Military Community Aids Abused Spouses.
FOUNTAINHEAD (Fort Devens)—Credit: Will You Be Its Master Or Slave?
NEWS LEADER (Fort Houston)—The Army Wife
CASTLE (Fort Belvoir)—Hitchhiking: A Viable Alternative
WHEEL (Fort Eustis)—RIF: It’s Like Being Killed In Combat
SENTINEL (Fort McPherson)—What Is A Racial Problem?
CANNONEER (Fort Sill)—Job Satisfaction—How Much Does It Matter?
MDW POST (MDW)—Fighting Crime In MDW
PATRIOT (Hunter Army Airfield)—Sickle Cell Anemia
32d AADC NEWS (Germany)—Meet Joe: Soldier, Husband, Alcoholic
ILLUMINATOR (New York)—Forgive Us Our Debts
ARCHER (Fort Lawton)—Human Relations: Survival Depends On It
VERITAS (Fort Bragg)—Suicide
POST (Fort Riley)—Free Ride: Pick Up An Undercover Policewoman, And You’ll Go To Jail
STRIPE (Walter Reed)—Testicular Cancer: It Couldn’t Happen To Me
JAYHAWK (7th Corps)—Heroin: A Really ‘Far Out’ Trip—Or Is It?
TASCOM CHRONICLE (Worms, Germany)—Stockades: A Nice Place To Visit, But I Wouldn’t Want To Live In One.